Achievements of CSIR

1077. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the scientific and technological achievements of CSIR during the last two years; and

(b) their contribution towards chemical synthesis of DNA and pollution control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) CSIR has to its credit significant scientific and technological achievements over the past two years, specially, in the areas of Chemicals, Petrochemical, Polymers, Health care, Biotechnology and Leather. However, in the chemical synthesis of DNA and pollution control its contributions have been as follows:

Chemical Synthesis of DNA:

(i) Developed a new universal polymer support system replacing eight prederivatised polymer supports required for DNA & RNA synthesis.

(ii) Established several modifications in nucleosides using microwave techniques.

(iii) Evolved reduced deprotection time for protected monomers of DNA.

Pollution Control:

(i) Developed several instruments like dust sampler, controlled sequential air sampler etc.

(ii) Developed processes for microbial desulphurization of coal, oil and sour gases; microbial de-emulsifier and biodegradable plastics; biological treatment of coke oven effluents in steel plants; solar energy based industrial waste water treatment system using anoxygenic phototrophis bacteria, bioremediation of mine soil dumps, treatment of petroleum refinery waste water etc.

(iii) Designed and installed Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for leather tanneries and textiles units, recovery and reuse of chromium sulphate from tannery effluence etc.

Scientists' concern over Ethical Impact of Gene patenting

1078. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Scientists concerned over ethical impact of gene patenting" appearing in the Business Standard, dated May 27, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Societies all over the world are concerned over the private utilisation of genetic biodiversity by highly knowledge based organisations like Multi Nationals. Individual countries are framing rules to protect their genetic biodiversity in accordance with the "Rio Declaration 1992". India is also in the process of framing its Biodiversity Conservation Laws.

Expertise of CBRI to Construct Low Cost Hotels

1079. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee has offered its expertise to construct low cost hotels,